

499 Ranch Days



Date: May 12 – 13, 2009

Place: Sparta, Tennessee – 1½ mile west of Highway 111 at O'Connor Exit: 499 Willie Jarvis Road. (90 miles east of Nashville, 8 miles south of Cookeville at Highway 111 exit)

Featured Speakers

Dr. Gordon Hazzard “the guru of grass” from West Point, Mississippi. Dr. Hazzard has owned and run steers and other cattle on grass since 1937, making a profit each and every year. Allan Nation has stated on several occasions that Hazzard’s operation makes more money year after year with less time and inputs than any agricultural enterprise he has seen or read of in the United States or abroad. Doc’s operation now consists of 3000 acres of grass and 1800 steers that he and one part-time herdsman manage 3½ hours daily. Eighty percent of the time, Doc’s biggest complaint is “There’s just not much to do.” Doc has authored two books in the past eight years, including his widely acclaimed **Thoughts and Advice from an Old Cattleman**. Hazzard has spoken at hundreds of meetings throughout the United States and Canada, but this is his first major speaking engagement in several years, and he has some more new innovations, all of which are practical, down to earth, and guaranteed to get you excited and thinking. We have made approximately fifteen 700 mile trips to visit Doc’s operation and ride around at various times of the year and have yet to come home and fail to pat down better profits. Now, we are proud that Dr. Hazzard is coming to Tennessee to visit with us and speak *the gospel* of profitable cattle enterprise.

Terry Gompert, grazing educator, University of Nebraska Extension Service, Lincoln, Nebraska, is likely the most competent *ranch dollar* educator in the United States. Gompert is more than knowledgeable in pasture/cattle production, having over 25 years of experience, nationally and internationally. He is superb both as a speaker and as a leader in Pasture Walks, communicating at near perfection. Terry and his wife Connie own and run a sizeable cow-calf ranch operation where they live near Lincoln, Nebraska.

Greg Brann, State Grazing Specialist, USDA/NRCS. With 32 years of experience in grass and plant science and animal husbandry, various publications, and a 1000 plus acre pasture-based farming operation, meeting Greg has been a real plus to our operation. I don't think there is a plant in Tennessee that he can't identify.

Gene Robinson, Field Grazing Specialist, Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council, MS in nutrition – Gene is applying his industrial knowledge out in the paddock.

R.P. Cooke, DVM, pioneered Upper Cumberland Veterinary Service in 1977 and bought his first steers in 1981 with a goal of putting together a successful prototype of a low tech, profitable cattle operation without owning anything but the cattle and a \$500 truck. Several major changes, including feed-yard-based, to feed-based, to supplement-based, to grass-based, to almost *all grass*, have come in 28 years. Although a couple of farms have been paid off, there is still the \$500 truck, no frills, no hay, no equipment – just \$200 per acre profits and the time and energy for y'all to come see what we're now doing.

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, May 12

8:30 – 11:30 AM - Pasture Walk #1

Noon – 1:00 PM - Lunch: grass-fed beef with local sides

1:00 – 5:00 PM - Speakers: Dr. Gordon Hazzard

Terry Gompert

5:30 – 8:30 PM - Meet & Greet Back at the Ranch: Ranch Food while visiting with the pros. Enjoy yourself.

Wednesday, May 13

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM - Speakers: Gene Robinson

Greg Brann

Terry Gompert

Dr. Hazzard

Noon – 1:00 PM - Lunch: grass-fed beef with local sides

1:30 – 5:00 PM - Pasture Walk #2

Topics

“Setting the Equation Straight: the Ranch Supports Us” - Dr. Gordon Hazzard

Dr. Hazzard will explore goals, challenges, and changes in the past 15 years and beyond as he talks about sale barn and conditioned cattle, grazing other people's cattle, developing grass from row-cropped land, training cattle and people, biodiversity,

purchased fertilizer, fescue since September 1945, the right kind of cattle/the right kind of grass, and heifer versus steer grazing.

“The ‘Big Four’ that We Must Understand” - Terry Gompert

Terry will discuss the necessity of understanding *water cycle*, *mineral cycle*, *energy flow*, and *community dynamics*. In addition, Terry will talk about the Why? When? Where? and Results! of mob grazing, Weeds vs. Forbs, and Biodiversity.

“Sailing Through the Tough Months” - Greg Brann

Greg will share with us how to manage our resources in order to make our goals a reality and improve our ranches, keeping profit in mind, of course. Greg will also show us where the small ruminants fit into many operations.

“Looking at Nutrition from the Backside” - Gene Robinson

Gene will enlighten us about Input/Output: what the cow pies are telling us.

Pasture Walks - These will be two separate events using different locations. Gompert will be leading ; and believe me, he knows how to keep it fun, interesting, and informative. He and Bran will address mob grazing, fencing, water, cool/warm season grasses, legumes, forbs, water cycle, mineral cycle, soil structure & life, energy flow, litter, hoof impact, animal-intake requirements, supplementation, soil fertility, plant spacing, edge effects, wildlife, and much more.

Guest Limit: 60 persons

Costs: 2-day conference with meals - \$225.00

1-day conference with meal(s) - \$150.00

2nd member of same ranch - \$175.00

Lodging: numerous motels available in nearby Cookeville. Listings and group rates will be made available in the near future.

Additional Information: Contact Linda Cooke

931-349-2049

lcooke.cooke675@gmail.com

May we recommend Map Quest if you do not have a GPS. Destination: 499 Willie Jarvis Road, Sparta, TN 38583.